

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A mirror retainer for retaining a mirror accommodated in a chamber that has a wall and a lid
5 openably provided on the wall, and generates a reduced pressure environment, said mirror retainer comprising an elastic member for connecting the mirror elastically to the lid.

10 2. The mirror retainer according to claim 1, further comprising a cooling plate, connected to the mirror between the lid and the mirror, for cooling the mirror.

15 3. The mirror retainer according to claim 2, further comprising a cooling tube, located between the lid and the mirror, for providing coolant to said cooling plate via the lid.

20 4. The mirror retainer according to claim 2, wherein said elastic member is connected to said cooling plate and the mirror via said cooling plate.

25 5. The mirror retainer according to claim 1, further comprising a positioning mechanism for positioning the mirror so as to restrict six axes of the mirror.

6. The mirror retainer according to claim 5,
wherein said positioning mechanism includes:

three first fixing shafts connected to the
mirror; and

5 three second fixing shafts engaged with said
first fixing shafts and provided in the chamber,

wherein one of the three first fixing shafts
and the three second fixing shafts have a spherical tip,
and the other have a V-shaped groove tip, a cone groove
10 tip, and a flat tip.

7. The mirror retainer according to claim 5,
further comprising a cooling plate, connected to the
mirror located between the lid and the mirror, for
15 cooling the mirror,

wherein said positioning mechanism includes:

three first fixing shafts connected to the
cooling plate and the mirror via the cooling plate; and

three second fixing shafts engaged with the
20 first fixing shafts and provided in the chamber,

wherein one of the three first fixing shafts
and the three second fixing shafts have a spherical tip,
and the other have a V-shaped groove tip, a cone groove
tip, and a flat tip.

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8. A method for retaining a mirror accommodated
in a chamber that has a wall and a lid openably

provided on the wall, and generates a reduced pressure environment, said method comprising the steps of:

connecting the mirror elastically and exchangeably to the lid, and

5 positioning the mirror by keeping the mirror in contact with a fixing member provided in the chamber independent to the chamber.

9. A method for exchanging a mirror accommodated
10 in a chamber that has a wall and a lid openably provided on the wall, and generates a reduced pressure environment, said method using a mirror retainer that includes an elastic member for connecting the mirror elastically to the lid, and a positioning mechanism,
15 provided in the chamber, for positioning the mirror, said method comprising the steps of:

opening the chamber to atmospheric pressure;

taking the mirror out of the chamber

simultaneous with opening of the lid opens;

20 exchanging the mirror;

closing the lid simultaneous with introducing of the mirror into the chamber and positioning the mirror using the positioning mechanism; and

drawing a vacuum in the chamber.

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10. An illumination apparatus for illuminating a mask that forms a pattern, said illumination apparatus

being used for a chamber that has a wall and a lid openably provided on the wall, and generates a reduced pressure environment, said illumination apparatus comprising:

5 a mirror, accommodated in the chamber and provided near an emission point of a light source for generating light from the plasma, for condensing the light; and

 an elastic member that connects the mirror
10 elastically to the lid.

11. An illumination apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the light is the EUV light or x-ray.

15 12. An exposure apparatus comprising:

 a chamber that has a wall and a lid openably provided on the wall, and generates a reduced pressure environment;

 an illumination apparatus for illuminating a
20 mask that forms a pattern; and

 a projection optical system for projecting the pattern onto an object to be exposed,

 wherein said illumination apparatus includes:

 a mirror, accommodated in the chamber and
25 provided near an emission point of a light source for generating light from the plasma, for condensing the light; and

an elastic member that connects the mirror
elastically to the lid.

13. An exposure apparatus according to claim 12,
5 wherein the light is the EUV light or x-ray.

14. A device fabrication method comprising the
step of:

exposing an object to be exposed, using an
10 exposure apparatus; and

performing a predetermined process for the
object exposed,

wherein an exposure apparatus includes:

a chamber that has a wall and a lid openably
15 provided on the wall, and generates a reduced pressure
environment;

an illumination apparatus for illuminating a
mask that forms a pattern; and

a projection optical system for projecting
20 the pattern onto an object to be exposed,

wherein said illumination apparatus includes:

a mirror, accommodated in the chamber and
provided near an emission point of a light source for
generating light from the plasma, for condensing the
25 light; and

an elastic member that connects the mirror
elastically to the lid.

15. A device fabrication method according to claim 14, wherein the light is the EUV light or x-ray.